



The Eastern Echo

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Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

Kim Kozlowski to be honored at *Echo* Student Media Gala

Olivia Hendry
Managing Editor

On March 27, 2025, *The Eastern Echo* will induct Kim Kozlowski, along with two other *Echo* alumni, into The Echo Hall of Fame during the third annual Student Media Gala. Kozlowski has made a significant impact on journalism in Michigan, and was named the 2021 Journalist of the Year by the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Throughout her long journalism career, Kozlowski has covered sensitive topics with poise and integrity. When the former Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics physician Larry Nassar was accused of sexual abuse in 2015, Kozlowski followed the story

reporting, she informed the public of MSU’s efforts to stall the investigation into Nassar.

“No one really realized the enormity of the scandal,” Kozlowski said. “It was a watershed moment for sexual abuse.”

A few years after covering the MSU scandal, she was contacted by a former University of Michigan student now living in California. The former student shared an encounter he had with one of the university’s physicians during his time at the university. With his consent, she broke the story of Dr. Robert Anderson, who would posthumously be accused of sexual assault by over 1,000 victims.

“The day we ran it, my phone was ringing off the hook with people who had stories that were very similar,”

won her Journalist of the Year in 2021. This award was given by the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, a 100+ year old journalism organization that encourages a free press and ethical journalism practices.

Though the recounts of abuse were horrific, Kozlowski felt privileged to be covering these stories in the backdrop of the #MeToo movement. She was able to see the shift in how male and female survivors were treated, and believed, while reporting. To document that social movement and change, she said, was an honor.

“It felt like the needle was moving for women being believed [and] taken seriously, perpetrators being held accountable, institutions making change ... It was an honor to be part of that whole movement,” Kozlowski said.

“I often think of journalism as one of the best jobs ever,” Kozlowski said. “We get to meet so many different people and share so many different stories. It can be demanding, but it’s so much fun at the end of the day ... [it’s] humbling to be part of a service to our community, particularly in a democratic society.”

In reflecting on the profession, Kozlowski emphasized the importance of amplifying voices and informing the community on important issues.

“I often think of journalism as people who let you into their lives and let you talk to them, and without them we wouldn’t have the story,” Kozlowski said. “We were delivering the important message, the people were telling the story. Our work is so

change and make the world a better place.”

Kozlowski will be honored, along with *Echo* alums Joe Misiewicz and Kristy Montee, at The Eastern Echo’s third annual Student Media Gala.

The Student Media Gala will take place at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse on Thursday, March 27, and is *The Echo*’s opportunity to recognize the publication’s journalistic work over the past school year. The event will feature speeches from the inductees, an award ceremony for current reporters, a catered meal, and more.

Tickets are available at a discounted rate of \$25 for students. All are welcome to attend this event. To purchase tickets, and learn more about the Gala, please visit the ticketing website.

EMU professor Sadaf Ali elected chair of Democratic Progressive Caucus

Odelia Florusbosch
News Reporter

Eastern Michigan University Professor Sadaf Ali was elected to chair of the Progressive Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Ali, a professor of electronic media and film studies, was elected on February 22, 2025, at the Michigan Democratic Party Spring 2025 State Convention. Also elected to the Progressive Caucus board were Tony DiMeglio, vice chair; Mason Pressler, secretary; and Lyra Opalikhin, treasurer.

Ali said.

Ali believes anyone can run for office and have a voice in government.

“If you want the world to look the way you want it to look, then you need to build that world for yourself,” Ali said. “You need to go run for office, and you need to make yourself heard.”

After her term as chair of the Progressive Caucus ends, Ali hopes to run for local office again.

Before covering high profile cases of misconduct at colleges, and even before writing for *The Echo*, she was a student at EMU. She originally came to the school to become a teacher for young children, enrolling in the Early Childhood Education major. But, she soon realized that her passion for education came from writing about it, not teaching it.

After rearranging her schedule, she started taking Journalism classes and working for *The Eastern Echo*. She wrote for *The Echo* for three semesters, eventually becoming the assistant Managing Editor.

Once she graduated, she wrote for the now defunct Ypsilanti Press as their education reporter. After the Ypsilanti Press, she wrote for a variety of newspapers, including The Citizen in upstate New York, the Grand Forks Herald in North Dakota, and the Kansas City Star in Missouri. She then moved back to Michigan to write about higher



The current board of the Progressive Caucus hopes to bring more diversity to the Michigan Democratic Party.

The Progressive Caucus is one of 26 caucuses of the Michigan Democratic Party. It aims to push progressive values, such as supporting the working class, addressing climate change, making healthcare accessible to all, and protecting freedom of speech.

“We are all about humanity ... With this current administration, marginalized communities are the most threatened by fascism,” Ali said. “Our job as a progressive caucus is to be a watchdog for that.”

Ali also emphasized the importance of ensuring voters’ voices are heard and listened to by politicians.

Ali previous ran for membership on the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees and Ypsilanti Township Park Commission. She was inspired to start running for local offices after attending a City Council meeting discussing a ceasefire in Palestine and seeing all of the residents and city council members in support of a ceasefire.

Activists from the Michigan Democratic Party reached out to Ali and encouraged her to run for the Progressive Caucus’ board. This was the first time Ali had run for a statewide office.

She noted the larger number of people at the statewide election level.

“It was overwhelming, but it was overwhelming in an awesome way,”



Federal records are governed by the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA. Each state has its own version of the law.



STEP 1 Find out which state or federal agency has the records you want.

RTW: You can't FOIA Congress or the federal courts.

You can request presidential records five years after the person leaves office.

It can feel intimidating, but it's easy to Google!

STEP 2 Decide what to request. Most laws only cover existing records. Try asking for completed forms, contracts, databases, memos and reports. Check if they're already publicly available.

Requests for emails must be specific – include the account, date range and key words. They could take longer to process or be exempt.

NO Fishing expeditions!!

STEP 3 Draft and file your request. Be specific, so it's easier for officials to find the records. Ask that any denials be in writing and include a legal justification for their decision – and what you'd need to do to appeal or sue.

I know right where these records are!

STEP 4 After you file, get a tracking number for your request. Don't hesitate to follow up!

I'm calling to get an estimated date of completion for my request.

Often the agency requester gets the goods!

STEP 5 You get your records! Congratulations. How you use them is up to you.

7 U.S. Code § 4106(a)

Or agencies may deny your request, say "no records exist" or redact information.

FOIA requests can be tricky. The fight isn't over.

The federal government has over 150 exemptions – even one for records about watermelon handling.

STEP 6 Appeal any full or partial denial. Send a letter explaining why you believe the agency was wrong to use the exemptions they cited.

Are you sure you want to sign off on this denial?

OK, we'll get you a log released version.

STEP 7 If the appeal fails, consider a lawsuit. The Post has sued to win the release of important records.

I order the records released, without redaction.

AND for the agency to pay the requester's attorney fees!

I've already got an idea for my next FOIA request!

Revealing Records: How to FOIA
Perspective by Nate Jones. Illustrations by Emily Joynton. Editing by Sarah Childress, Jenna Pirog and Hannah Good. Art direction by Hannah Good and Marissa Vonesh. Design editing by Christian Font. Copy editing by Jordan Melendrez.

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

HOW TO REACH US

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PICK UP A COPY

Print editions published Tuesdays from late August to early May are available in racks or on tables in all academic buildings on the EMU campus, and at dozens of businesses in the community.

Among those businesses are:








- Sweetwaters on Cross St
- The Golden Egg
- Domino's
- and more!

Want to have copies of The Eastern Echo delivered to your Ypsilanti business? Email advertising@easternecho.com!

CORRECTIONS

The Eastern Echo corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief by email: editor@easternecho.com

Weekly Calendar


TUESDAY MARCH 18	WEDNESDAY MARCH 19	THURSDAY MARCH 20	FRIDAY MARCH 21	SATURDAY MARCH 22	SUNDAY MARCH 23	MONDAY MARCH 24
EAGLE-CON STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 7 P.M. - 10 P.M. 	EMPOWHER CONFERENCE MCKENNY HALL BALLROOM 2 P.M. - 6 P.M.  SPRING JOB FAIR STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 4 P.M. - 7 P.M. 	MICHIGAN OVARIAN CANCER ALLIANCE NETWORKING NIGHT STUDENT CENTER 6 P.M. - 8 P.M. 		SPRING CONCERT PEASE AUDITORIUM 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M. 	PAINTING THE SCENE INSIDE DUDERSTADT CENTER GALLERY 1:30 P.M. 	MARCHING BAND FREE DRUMLINE AUDITION CLINIC ALEXANDER MUSIC BUILDING 5 P.M. - 7 P.M. 

Scoop's Forecast

66°  50° Tuesday, Mar. 18

68°  44° Wednesday, Mar. 19

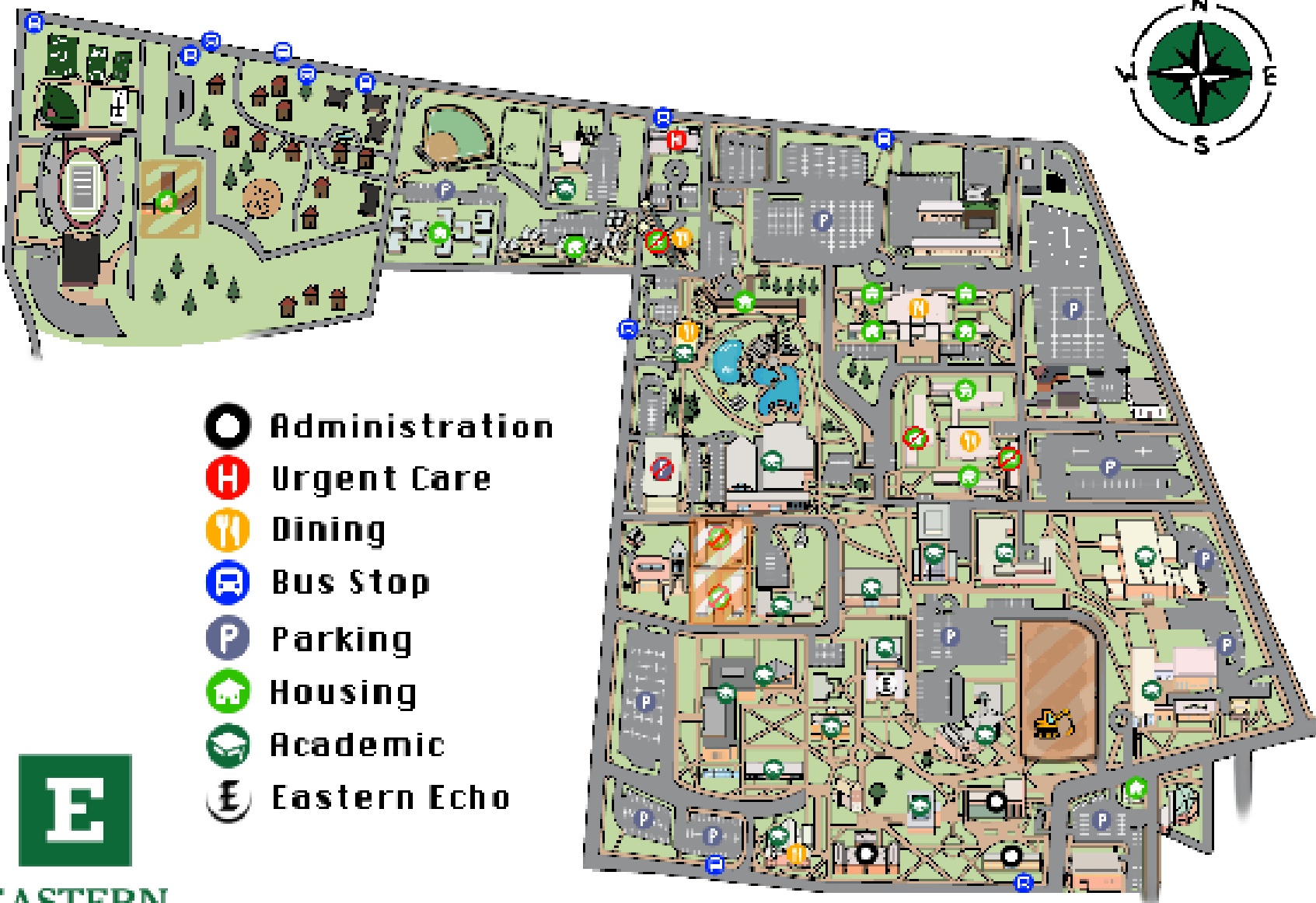
48°  25° Thursday, Mar. 20

52°  37° Friday, Mar. 21

52°  30° Saturday, Mar. 22

47°  32° Sunday, Mar. 23

48°  32° Monday, Mar. 24



What's the move? March 18-24

Amiya Pillow
Staff Reporter

Check out these events happening on campus this week.

Eagle-Con - March 18
Not Comic-Con, but Eagle-Con. From 7 to 10 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom, there will be a variety of activities, performers and snacks at this free event hosted by Campus Life. Student organizations and local artists will also be present. For more information, contact Juniper Bamrick at sbamrick@emich.edu.

EmpowHER Conference “Dare to be YOU” - March 19
From 2 to 6 p.m. in the McKenny Hall Ballroom, the Women’s Resource Center will be hosting a gala event focused on empowering women and encouraging them to embrace their true selves. For more information, visit the website for the Women’s Resource Center or contact Kimberly D. Ferrell at kdixson@emich.edu. This event is approved for the Learning Beyond the Classroom credit.

Spring Job Fair - March 19
EMU’s 2025 Spring Job Fair will be taking place in the Student Center Ballroom between 4 and 7 p.m. This event is open to all students and alumni. All who attend will have the opportunity to network and connect with recruiters from industries such as business, technology, communication, art, science and health and human services. Students should wear professional attire, bring copies of their resume and have a notebook and pen handy. A ready room will be open for students to practice introductions and receive a wardrobe check prior to entering the fair. This room will open at 3:30 p.m. Students can register for the event through Handshake. For more information, contact John Carlson at jcarls18@emich.edu.

Student and Young Professionals Networking Night - March 20
The Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance will be hosting a networking event for students and professionals in the field of ovarian cancer research and gynecologic oncology. The event is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in room 300 of the Student Center. Students attending any college in Washtenaw County are welcome to attend, and registration is free. For more information, contact info@mioca.org.

Spring Concert Featuring: EMU Voices, Measure for Measure and Campus Choir - March 22
Pease Auditorium will be filled with the sound of choral music at the Spring Concert from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The concert will feature EMU Voices, EMU Vision and Measure for Measure as well as musical theater performances by Campus Choir. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Brandon Johnson at bjohn122@emich.edu or Jillian Burgam at jburgam1@emich.edu. You can also visit the EMU Choirs website for more information.

Painting the Scene Inside: Artist Talk - March 23
Handmade artwork by incarcerated artists in Michigan will be on display at the Duderstadt Center Gallery at 1:30 p.m. This is the 20th Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons showcase. The event will also feature a panel discussion led by artists from past project exhibitions. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact pcapinfo@umich.edu or visit the Prison Creative Arts Project website.

EMU Marching Band Free Drumline Audition Clinic - March 24
If you’re interested in auditioning for the Fall 2025 Marching Band, an audition clinic will be held in Alexander Music Building from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a free clinic, and students can fill out the membership form using the sign-up link. For more information, contact the drumline instructor Jason Ihnat at jihnat@emich.edu.



Eastern Echo editors gather for a news meeting in this staff photo circa 1968-72. From left to right: Rob Musial, Barb Ellsworth, Kristy Montee, Ann Linder, Margo Doble, Arnie Rubin, and Paul Valentine.

3 alumni set to join The Echo Hall of Fame

Ameera Salman
Editor-in-Chief

The Eastern Echo Hall of Fame Selection Committee announced three alumni who will be inducted at the 2025 Student Media Gala. This year's inductees are Kim Kozlowski, Joe Misiewicz and Kristy Montee. Joe Misiewicz worked for The Echo in the 1960s, serving as an assistant editor in his junior year. Misiewicz was nominated by Dennis Beagen, an Eastern Michigan University professor emeritus of speech communication. Beagen described

Misiewicz as a devoted professional of broadcast journalism for 42 years and a loyal champion for students, colleagues, and academic media programs in journalism and broadcasting. Misiewicz taught at Central Michigan University, Ball State University and EMU. He retired from Ball State in 2012. His students often referred to him as "Dr. Joe." Misiewicz has received the following awards: The John Knight Award from the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters; Broadcast Education Association Distinguished Educator Service Award; Inaugural Inductee into the Central

Michigan University College of Arts & Media Hall of Fam; and EMU Alumnus of the Year in 2002. Kim Kozlowski worked at The Eastern Echo from 1989-91 and studied to be a teacher until she realized she liked writing about education more than she liked teaching. Kozlowski spent three semesters writing for The Echo and became assistant managing editor. After graduating, Kozlowski worked at the Ypsilanti Press and the Kansas City Star. She has written for the Detroit News for the past 25 years. The Society of Professional Journalists named her

Journalist of the Year in 2021, mostly for her coverage of the late-Dr. Robert Anderson sexual misconduct story. Four years before, Kozlowski did memorable work covering the sexual abuse scandal perpetuated by Larry Nassar at Michigan State University. Kozlowski was nominated by Echo alumni Larry O'Connor and Kevin Allen. Kristy Montee was a part of The Eastern Echo through all four years of time at Eastern, from 1968-72, as a reporter and an editor. She served as assistant managing editor during the last year with the newspaper. After her time at The Echo,

Montee worked as a journalist in Michigan and Florida. After several years as a reporter, she served as the assistant managing editor for the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. She eventually joined forces with her sister to write the New York Times bestselling mystery novel series published under the pseudonym P.J. Parrish. All three of this year's inductees will be celebrated at the 2025 Student Media Gala on March 27, 2025. The event is at 7 p.m. at the Freighthouse in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Buy your tickets now!

Joann Fabric and Crafts to close 33 stores across Michigan

Jillian Randall
Staff Writer

After 82 years of business, Joann Fabric and Crafts has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy twice, once in March 2024 and again in January 2025. Stores nationwide are selling remaining stock at discounted rates, and Joann's

locations in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor will soon be closed. The reasons for closing are stock and inventory issues, along with financial decline. Competitors such as Michaels and Hobby Lobby outsell Joann. The store has struggled for many years with these issues before its inevitable bankruptcy.

The stores are offering a liquidation sale of 10% to 40% discount on all items. There is no projected date for the stores to close while it relies on getting rid of stock. Joann estimates stores will be open for about 11 more weeks. Customers will be able to take advantage of the going-out sale online and in stores.

All products are up for grabs at a steep discount. However, all items are final sale, and there will be no returns accepted. "I feel that it is disappointing since it is my go-to place for fabric and sewing supplies," said Judy Miller, a Michigan local and avid Joann shopper. "With sewing, it is good to be able to see and feel the

different fabrics. That is not something you can get when shopping online." Joann's closure has left a mark on the crafting community. The sale will offer one last opportunity for shoppers to indulge in Joann's wide range of fabrics and furniture.

The Eastern Echo

STUDENT MEDIA GALA

27

March

7

PM

The Ypsilanti Freighthouse
100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

The Eastern Echo

We're Hiring!

Photographers Needed!

Send your resume to
managing@easternecho.com

Succes programs aid students on both four-year and multi-year graduation plans

Asia O'Quinn
Staff Reporter

Thousands of Eastern Michigan University students have applied to receive degrees at the spring 2005 commencement ceremonies in April. The university has awarded an average of 3,925 degrees each spring for the past five years. For many of those students, the college journey began more than the traditional four years ago.

In a 2024 university data book, Eastern Michigan reported that 46% of the students who first enrolled in 2018 had received their degrees by 2024. That six-year graduation rate is a common measurement tool among universities across the United States.

The National Center for Education Statistics, a federal agency that collects education data, reported that among first-time, full-time undergraduate students who began seeking a bachelor's degree at four-year, degree-granting institutions in the fall 2014 across the United States, 64 percent finished their degree within six years.

As for graduating in four years, the center reported that the graduation rate for those who entered college in 2009 and received degrees in 2013 was 39.8%.

Years of similar data has led education experts to focus on the six-year rates. Eastern Michigan University's six-year graduate rate is about 47%. Among the 2,588 first-time students who enrolled full-time in the fall of 2014, there were 1,215 who received a degree by 2020.

A nonprofit group called



Complete College America, based in Indianapolis, noted in a 2014 report that on-time or four-year graduation rates "have become little more than modern myths for far too many of our students." Founded in 2009, the organization advocates for changes that would improve those four-year rates, chiefly because it would make college more affordable.

"Four years in college is a lot less expensive than five or six," the organization stated in the 2014 report titled Four Year Myth. "Hands down, our best strategy to make college more affordable and a sure way to boost graduation rates overall is to ensure that many more students graduate on time."

The report also acknowledges the right of student choice in the elements that can delay graduation, such as

changes in area of study, the need for students to work while attending class, unpredictable class schedules, uninformed choices for majors, the need for prerequisite classes, and course credit transfer policies.

April Calkovsky, a career coach at EMU's Advising and Career Development Center, said students shouldn't worry because employers do not care how long it took to earn a degree.

"On a resume, a person should only list when they expect to finish rather than listing your start and end dates," Calkovsky said. "If an employer has an online application portal and it requires listing the start and end dates then you'll list those dates correctly, but it is not a negative."

Lahleh Walker, a sophomore at Eastern Michigan University, said

everyone is on their own journey to getting a degree, and timing isn't the most important goal.

"As long as someone is on the path to get their degree that's what matters, not if they get it done within the ideal four years," Walker said. "I think people put a negative stigma on that when it should be normalized."

Mikayla Squirewell entered EMU through the university's Early College Alliance program, and said she supports the four-year graduation goal. The early college program helps students attain that goal by allowing them to take college courses toward a degree while they're still in high school.

"The longer you wait, the harder it is to obtain your degree because life happens," Squirewell said. "People get married, have kids, end up having to work more hours and that clashes with

the steps it takes to obtain your degree."

Squirewell will earn her associate's degree in April, the end of this semester. She said the key thing to graduating in four years is pursuing a major that sparks interest, therefore making it easier to stick with the program and get the requirements completed on time.

That's also a recommendation from the Complete College America group, which suggested that universities need procedures that helps students stay on track.

"Students should be given a structure designed to empower their decisions and guide their academic trajectory," the group's 2014 report stated. "All students should be scheduled to maintain steady progress on their chosen path. Random acts of enrollment should be replaced with deliberate and directed advancement toward degrees."

The most recent graduation rate data provided by EMU's Institutional Research and Information Management 2024 data book reported on first-time college students who entered in 2018. The full-time cohort consisted of 2,375 students who were admitted in fall 2018. From this group, 1,103 graduated by 2024.

Eastern Michigan offers students a number of resources to help them plan that degree program, from academic advisors to career counselors and tutoring. Many of the resources are listed on the university website's Student Success page. The university also offers assistance through the Holman Success Center in room G04 in the Halle Library.

Learn about the Undergraduate Symposium and the women behind it, Amy Bearinger

Carol Detary
Staff Reporter

Eastern Michigan University's first Undergraduate Symposium was held April 3, 1981. More than 40 years later, this annual event continues to provide undergraduate students with opportunities to celebrate and present their research and creative projects.

Amy Bearinger, an associate lecturer in the School of Communication, Media & Theater Arts (CMTA), is the event coordinator for the symposium. The College of Arts and Sciences hosts the event and welcomes all undergraduate students to participate. To participate, students must be nominated by a faculty mentor and recommended by the respective department or school. The 2025 symposium is scheduled for Friday, March 28, at the Student Center.

Q: What drew you to coordinating the symposium?

A: I was actually in my second year working on my Master's degree in Communication, Media and Theater Arts, and I was a teaching graduate assistant. In my second year, enrollment just gave us some surprises, so we didn't have as many classes available. And you know, we need to have so many hours that we work. So the whole team of us - there were about 12 of us that year - we had to find other places to work, to give service time.

There were all these different options. Wendy Kivi worked in Communication, Media & Theater Arts, and she ran a symposium as the Event Coordinator and also did special event planning for CMTA ... I had helped her out once or twice on a few special events. She said, "Hey, you know, if you are looking for something to do to supplement the teaching, I could really use some help with the symposium."

So, I did that in my last year of grad school, and then they ended up hiring me part time to teach. Because I was still here, I just helped out Wendy. I did that, my gosh, probably for 12 years. I

guess I would say I was her assistant. And then, in 2018, she retired, and it's kind of just made sense for me to step into her role. I knew the ins and outs, and obviously there was plenty that she did that I never had my hands on, but I knew the basic structure enough to do it.

Q: What fuels the excitement to support and encourage students to submit their projects?

A: There's so much that we can do very well here on this campus, but nothing is more motivating and rewarding to me than programs that, first of all, include everybody, right? So, this is an event that is hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences, but it's open to the entire University community, and it's all undergraduate research. So, there's different ways that we define and conceptualize research and creative work in higher education and academia, and it's so important for us to be really inclusive in that and see things in different ways.

So first of all, I love that it's a party that everyone's invited to. I also think it's important to acknowledge the role of the faculty mentors. They are stepping in outside of their role as a classroom educator, and really stepping into that mentorship with purpose, value and engagement, and really making sure that people can experience the whole scope of their undergraduate career. Whether that's a class that they took that sparked interest, or really confirming that this major or minor is really going to serve them in the way that they thought it was. And so, the faculty mentorship is such an important part.

Q: What is your favorite part of event day?

A: On event day, it's so cool to pause and have this kind of culminating celebration where we're highlighting the students, and it's really all about the students and what they've done. And it's always so cool to see how surprised people are when they come to the event. Maybe they were just walking through the Student Center, or they want to come get LBC3 credits. They know that

the students have done good work, and its quality and it's interesting, but to see people stop and realize they're talking about antibiotics or cancer research or soil, they're talking about things that are going to impact my life in a couple years. So, it's cool for people to have that aha moment of, this is beyond just having an experience here at EMU. This is an experience that you're going to have at EMU that will then stay with you and push you into other opportunities, or even just personal ways to confirm that you've made the best choices for yourself academically. So, it is focused on students and so supportive of highlighting students.

Q: How do the different colleges intersect in this event?

A: We've got five colleges here at EMU. The College of Business and Education might do different things than the College of Arts and Sciences or Health and Human Services. Or one thing that's super cool, that is important for me to mention, is sometimes when you think there would be no interdisciplinary connection, there actually is, right?

So, there's this, 'Oh, gosh, you're doing a project about public relations, and I'm in mathematics and statistics, but we're actually using the same software to count our data. Let's talk about that. Let's share resources.' So, it is interesting when we look at the variety and the different approaches to what research and creative work looks like. It's also cool to see where things weave together.

We have a total this year of 240 projects. We will feature more than 280 students, because some projects have multiple students, so it's a really nice chunk of students, and all five colleges are represented.

Q: What are the types of presentation?

A: Students at the symposium have three presentation options. They can give an oral presentation, which is very much like a traditional public speaking situation. They can do posters, which is a big room full of posters, and people walk by, and you do elevator talks and

kind of quick pitches of your work. Or you can actually engage further ... depending on how your discussion goes.

Then we also have the crossing lines Design Expo, which is where we feature more 2D [and] 3D works. Think of interior design, costume-making, simulation, animation and gaming. That's kind of the best way to answer the question, you can even see the diversity within the three different presentation styles. But you can come to the symposium, and you could learn about ... Professor [Cara] Shillington's spider lab; you could learn about tarantula behavior but also learn about set design and lighting, then go to an oral presentation and learn about social justice initiatives. It's really cool to see the depth and breadth of what can happen and what we can share and talk about at the symposium.

Q: When can students apply?

A: The submission window is typically November to January. What happens is, we have a faculty committee that reviews abstracts from their particular area or their department. Once they approve those, it comes back to me. I do some more editing. We officially confirm student acceptance pretty much in early February. Then we're doing all of the scheduling, organizing, who's in what room at what time and where are we, the RSVP for the lunch and all of that.

We encourage students to come by and check it out. Obviously, these are your peers. This is part of the work that's going on here at Eastern. We're going to have a raffle for undergraduate students who visit us the day of. We also can award LBC3 credits if they do need that or desire that. It's just kind of a cool space to come check out. We take over a part of the Student Center for the whole day from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and there's always something to see and something to do.

Q: How do students typically get involved?

A: What happens is, you do have students who either are already working on a project; perhaps they're in a major

program that, you know, maybe requires lab work, or a practicum of some kind. So they're already kind of involved. Other students may be in a class and an instructor would say, "Gosh, that paper or that project that you did was really high quality, very engaging. I think there's still a few research questions that you could tap into." Or, "If we took this kind of a couple steps further, this could be a great project for the symposium."

So that kind of manifests, and then what we assume is, when you come back in the Fall, either you started that conversation or you're continuing that conversation. So November to January is when we open it up, because that way people are kind of in place to present in the Spring.

Q: Why is the symposium so important?

A: Because it is such a celebration of undergraduate students and potential and opportunities, that I think it almost cultivates a very cool pride within Eastern which I think people are surprised about. They don't really get that unless they attend the event, and then they have these surprising aha moments of, 'Wow! Look at this incredible work, this incredible partnership between student faculty.' And that's honestly, like I said, the number one motivating factor for me. I get to be nosy and see what are you working on, and what does that mean, and for the future, what might that look like? And it's really cool to see that.

The Undergraduate Symposium will take place Friday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Student Center. All students and committee members are welcome. The Student Center parking lot gate will be open; however, it is recommended to take into consideration the popularity of the event for adequate parking. Students may receive Learning Beyond the Classroom credit by attending the symposium.



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EMU men's basketball falls in MAC tournament quarterfinals to Miami

Caleb Henderson
Sports Reporter

In their first Mid-American Conference tournament appearance in over half a decade, the seventh-seeded Eastern Michigan men's basketball team made a valiant effort against Miami (OH) but ultimately fell short, 81-75.

Miami came into the game ranked as the second seed in the bracket, and they showed it out of the gate by beginning the contest on a 9-0 run—a

deficit that Eastern Michigan would claw back to erase. They even took the lead briefly before entering the locker room knotted up at 29.

Jalen Terry (Flint, Michigan/Beecher/Oregon/DePaul) was the key catalyst for the Eagles' remaining in contention in the first half. He scored 15 of his 21 points during the opening frame, all of them made three-pointers.

However, the senior guard would go cold coming out of the break, failing to make any

of his last eight triple attempts and only scoring six points during the final 20 minutes.

On the other hand, fellow star senior Da'Sean Nelson (Toledo, Ohio/Robert S. Rogers/Kilgore College/DePaul) was 0-for-7 from the field during the opening period with 0 points to his name at halftime—but supplied 17 to the Eagles' scoring output during the second half along with seven rebounds in a valiant attempt to keep Eastern Michigan in it.

The Eagles remained tight with the Redhawks for most of the second half, but eventually, the second-best team in the conference flexed their pedigree and extended their lead to a game-high 13 with 3:04 remaining, a margin they would not relinquish during the rest of the game.

Christian Henry (Chicago, Illinois/The Skill Factory/Panola College) led the way in scoring for Eastern Michigan with 24 points on 9-of-16 from the floor, five of his field goals

coming from behind the arc, with no other player on the squad besides Henry, Nelson, or Terry scoring more than six points.

With the win, Miami advances to 24-8 (14-4 MAC) on the year and will play Kent State in the MAC tournament semifinals, while Eastern Michigan drops to 16-16 (9-9 MAC) and has been eliminated from the bracket.



Linda Eloundou and Andrea Quiroz face off in a doubles match as Eloundou strikes the ball in play.

EMU women's tennis completes 7-0 clean sweep against SVSU

Caleb Henderson
Sports Reporter

For the first time since the 2021-22 season, the Eastern Michigan women's tennis team have won back to back matches via a clean sweep - making quick work of Saginaw Valley State, 7-0.

The day started on a high for the Eagles, the squad dominating the doubles portion of the event with Viki Hazmukova (Skvorec,

Czechia/Skoly Brezova) and Marta Konar (Inowroclaw, Poland/Sopocka (Sopot Tennis Academy/Wayne State) winning their doubles match 6-1, and Sabrina Brichackova (Cheb, Czechia/Gymnázium Jana Blahoslava) plus Prerna Vichare (Mumbai, India/Narsee Monjee College of Commerce and Economics) scoring victory in theirs by a score of 6-2 to give Eastern Michigan an early 1-0 lead.

Lara Diaz Zayas (Mar de

Ajo, Argentina/SEADEA) and Daniella Shved (Holon, Israel/Ort Holon) also took home a win in the final doubles match 6-3 to give the Eagles a sweep of that portion, momentum heavily leaning into the Green and White's favor heading into the critical singles portion of the contest.

Diaz Zayas was the first to add to Eastern's tally during the individual period, scoring 6-0 victories in both sets to bolster the Eagles' lead at 2-0 -

but the scoring would not stop there.

Kseniia Saenko (Voronezh, Russia/Gymnasium 2), Shved, and Hazmukova all took home wins during their singles matches to officially wrap up the overall match win for the Eagles; Komar and Regina Mendez (Los Cabos, Mexico/Picacho McGregor) would win theirs as well to complete the 7-0 clean sweep.

The blanking of Saginaw Valley State marks the first

time that Eastern Michigan has done so to back to back opponents at home since the 2013 season, improving their record to 7-6 on the season and wrapping up their non-conference portion of the calendar. With the loss, SVSU drops to 1-7.

Next up, the Eagles begin their MAC campaign with a road trip to face off against Northern Illinois on Sunday, March 16 at 2 p.m.

Eagle Sports Tips & Tales: March 18-24

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

The excitement builds as Eastern Michigan Athletics enters another thrilling week packed with competitive matchups and high-stakes games! From baseball to tennis, lacrosse, and golf, EMU athletes are geared up to compete at the highest level. Whether you're cheering in Ypsilanti or following along remotely, here's a rundown of the must-watch events this week.

Women's Golf at Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational

On March 17-18, the women's golf team will compete at the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational in Austin, Texas. This prestigious tournament will see the Eagles face off against some of the nation's top teams, and they're ready to make a statement on a national stage.

Tennis at Western Michigan

On March 21 at 1 p.m., the tennis team travels to Kalamazoo, Michigan, for a crucial match against Western Michigan. This conference showdown is an intense battle as both teams vie for a critical victory in the MAC.

Baseball vs Miami

On March 21 at 3 p.m., the baseball team returns to Ypsilanti for a crucial game against Miami. The Eagles will look to secure a vital win as they continue their push in the conference race.

Baseball vs Miami

On March 22 at 2 p.m., the baseball team will again face Miami in Ypsilanti. With momentum, the Eagles are ready to keep the pressure on their opponents in this key series.

Baseball vs Miami

On March 23 at 3 p.m., the baseball team will play the final game in Ypsilanti, wrapping up their series against Miami. The Eagles will be looking to close out the series with a victory and continue their strong start to the season.

Tennis vs Ball State

On March 23 at 1 p.m., the tennis team returns home to face Ball State. This is a big opportunity for the Eagles to show their strength on their home court and secure another victory in conference play.

Lacrosse vs Youngstown State

The lacrosse team will play Youngstown State in Ypsilanti on March 23 at 3 p.m. The Eagles want to defend their home turf and build on their strong season with a solid performance.

Men's Golf at Gopher Tommie Invitational

On March 24-25, the men's golf team heads to Litchfield Park, Arizona, for the Gopher Tommie Invitational. Competing against top teams, the Eagles will look to show off their talent and finish strong in this prestigious event.

With so much to look forward to, don't miss out on supporting your Eastern Michigan Eagles this week! Stay connected with The Eastern Echo for all the latest news, scores, and updates on EMU athletics.

Ben Braun inducted into MAC Hall of Fame

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Eastern Michigan University and the Mid-American Conference (MAC) have announced that former EMU men's basketball coach Ben Braun has been selected as a member of the 2025 MAC Hall of Fame Induction Class. The official ceremony will occur on May 29 during the MAC Honors Dinner at the Marriott Key Tower in Cleveland.

Braun becomes the 11th representative from Eastern Michigan to receive this prestigious honor, joining

notable figures such as Charlie Batch, Ron Johnson, and Bob Parks. His induction recognizes his contributions to EMU basketball and his impact on the Mid-American Conference during his tenure.

During his time at Eastern Michigan, Braun built an impressive coaching legacy. He led the program to 185 victories, three MAC Regular Season Championships, three MAC Tournament titles, and three NCAA Tournament appearances. He also earned MAC Coach of the Year honors three times. Under his leadership, EMU achieved its first NCAA Tournament

appearance and, in 1991, made a historic Sweet 16 run. Over his 11 seasons, Braun compiled a 185-132 record, including a dominant 106-35 home record.

Braun's teams secured 10 victories over significant conference opponents, including Duke, Michigan State, and Texas Tech. His success against MAC rivals was equally notable, boasting a 50-19 record against Western Michigan, Central Michigan, and Toledo. He remains the only coach in EMU history to win NCAA Tournament games, holding a 3-3 record in NCAA play.

Beyond team success, Braun played a crucial role in player development, mentoring 24 athletes who went on to professional basketball careers, including NBA players Grant Long, Earl Boykins, and Charles Thomas. His influence continues through former players and assistants who have advanced to coaching positions at prominent programs nationwide.

Following his tenure at EMU, Braun continued his coaching career at the University of California, where he recorded 202 wins and led the Golden Bears to multiple postseason appearances.

He later coached at Rice University and transitioned into broadcasting, working with ESPN, PAC-12 Network, and NBC Sports.

Braun's legacy at Eastern Michigan was further cemented in 2023 when the university named the court inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center "Ben Braun Court." Now, with his induction into the MAC Hall of Fame, his impact on EMU basketball and the Mid-American Conference is formally recognized, ensuring his contributions to the sport will be remembered for years to come.

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'Picture This' takes the audience on a comedic adventure for love

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

“Picture This,” directed by Prarthana Mohan and recently released on Prime Video, is a comedic film. It **Review** features Hero Fiennes Tiffin as Charlie and Simone Ashley as Pia; their chemistry and banter are undeniable.

This film is about a struggling photographer named Pia. She has a studio based on her grandmother’s dream. Her younger sister Sonal, played by Anoushka Chadha, is getting married, and Pia is one of the bridesmaids who has to attend multiple events. Pia is told that she will find her true love and that her career will become a success within the following five dates. Her family becomes a matchmaker, but her ex appears in her life again, which brings up her old feelings.

Highs

Ashley’s performance as Pia was done well. She portrays this strong, independent woman that is charming and determined. She brings this depth to her character as a photographer, highlighting her skills and passion. Her passion for photography is beautiful, but she is stubborn about finding love.

The banter between Pia and Charlie is hilarious and keeps the audience engaged. Their love for one another is evident throughout the film, especially when Charlie shows his passion. He never overcame it, but she became stubborn because of their past relationship. Fiennes’ portrayal of Charlie was as imagined; he loves his job as a chef. He is passionate about food, which is combined with Pia’s passion.

The quality of the culture was shown beautifully. The Hindu outfits for the wedding and the events were well done. This shows the authenticity of the culture and connects with individuals of this culture. The wedding incorporated all the aspects of Hinduism, including

gorgeous customs and scenery.

Pia and her best friend Jay, played by Luke Fetherston, have a strong and unbreakable friendship. He supports Pia no matter what and believes in her even though they are going bankrupt. Their banter makes the film hilarious.

Lows

The lows in this film are minimal, considering it’s a simple romantic comedy. However, the plot was more predictable and lacked surprise. These are typical romantic comedy tropes that need a little more uniqueness. Also, the film lacks background information on what happened in Charlie and Pia’s relationship.

Some aspects of the film were unnecessary. For example, Pia’s dates were very random. This was hilarious, but it lacked some sort of suspense when it came to her finding someone new. She always returned to Charlie, but a guy should have been competing with him. This would have made things more enjoyable for the film.



Verdict

“Picture This” is worth watching for a romantic comedy; it has this lighthearted aspect that is fun in movies. The banter between the characters keeps the film entertaining and happy.

Rating: 6.5 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

'The Electric State' lacks the energy needed to pull off its concept

Frank Remski
Review Columnist

The 1990s were reimagined as a robotic war in Netflix’s latest film, “The Electric State.” Based **Review** on the novel by Simon Stålenhag, it followed Michelle, a teenager on the run with a robot named Cosmo.

Millie Bobby Brown starred as Michelle and Alan Tudyk as Cosmo. They were joined by Chris Pratt, who played their rogue ally Keats. The movie was directed by Anthony and Joe Russo. Previously, the brother duo directed the second and third “Captain America” films and the third and fourth “Avengers” films.

Highs

It was clear that “The Electric State” had a basis in fascinating art. Many of the robots had a gritty, retro design that made them eye-catching, including designs from the novel. They were mostly whimsical and terrifying.

A few of the side characters had entertaining performances. In particular, Stanley Tucci, Giancarlo Esposito, and Ke Hu Quan made their characters fun and energetic. It wouldn’t be surprising if the actors had



a fun time on set.

Lows

The story had an interesting concept and art direction- an alternative 1990s where robots and humans struggle for power. The film took this in a cliché, bland direction. The plot wasn’t actively bad, there were good ideas in it, but it was aggressively safe.

The characters were dull as well, and Brown’s performance was difficult to judge given she had so little pathos to work with.

Pratt’s role as Keat was especially grating. Although Pratt has been known for his comedy, he played Keats in a serious and restrained fashion. Keats had a temper, which could have been humorous, had Pratt not played

it so straight. This made a character who could have been enduring deeply uncomfortable. This was especially notable when compared to Brown, who at least got her tone right, and his robot sidekick Herm, voiced by Anthony Mackie, who had a more jovial tone.

And although the design of the film was mostly good, some of the robots were just outright ugly. The character

of Mr. Peanut notably deviated from his classically designed counterparts, making a horrendous CGI monster, despite the fact “The Electric State” clearly wanted the audience to root for him. Other instances of poor design were the human-piloted robots who had uncanny faces that made them impossible to take seriously and Mackie’s robot being painfully generic.

Verdict

There was a good idea and mostly good visual direction in “The Electric State.” With a stronger plot and better character work, it could have been a beautiful, tragic sci-fi epic. Netflix wasted this potential on a mediocre film that felt more like something to passively watch than actively engage with.

Rating: 4.5 out of 10

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.

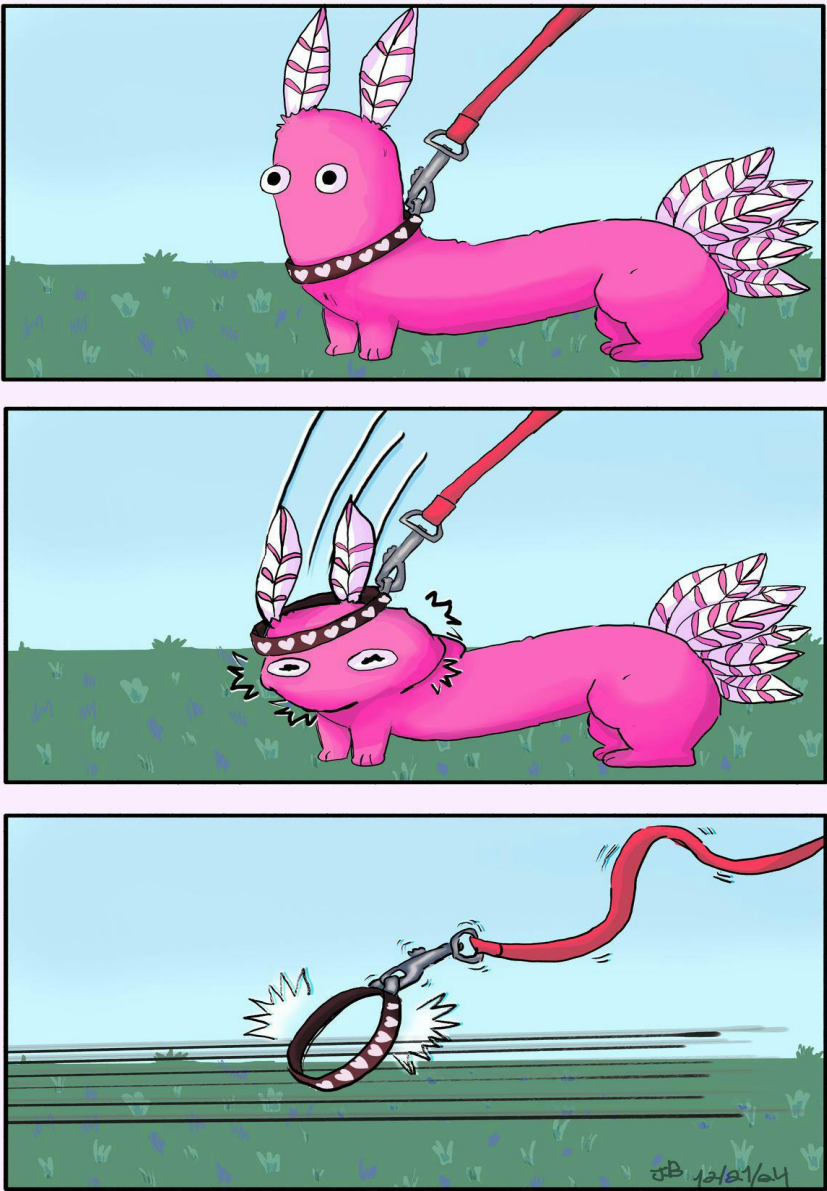


Moonlight 2-4
FunkyL0af
Comics Artist

"Tough"
Rylee Curley
Design Chief



the great escape
Julia Bartlett
Comics Artist



Scoop says...



More Comics Here! The Echo Newsletter!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the March words?

A	Z	R	C	V	H	S	R	O	L	S	B	R	Q
X	W	B	B	R	O	T	O	G	I	O	L	R	S
M	A	R	L	M	S	P	D	A	G	L	A	Y	J
S	R	B	U	O	W	L	P	S	S	I	G	O	L
L	H	A	C	B	S	F	D	W	N	S	F	C	L
U	T	W	K	D	F	S	L	B	G	H	H	I	P
D	H	E	Y	D	G	C	O	V	Z	V	S	A	L
W	G	D	V	S	Q	W	G	M	B	L	H	S	Q
Z	I	E	H	L	P	X	H	K	D	A	A	S	G
E	L	R	Y	P	R	F	H	R	S	V	M	W	Y
G	Y	H	S	F	G	C	L	O	V	E	R	H	I
M	A	R	C	H	J	D	R	J	Y	C	O	K	L
B	D	E	R	G	P	T	F	G	C	B	C	M	B
L	O	E	Z	E	E	R	B	T	Z	L	K	W	O

Lucky
Shamrock

Clover
Daylight
Rainbow

Blossom
Breeze
Blossom

Gold
March

The Women of Color Feminisms and Leadership Symposium

A story by Eastern Echo staff and photographers



Featured panelists at the Women of Color Feminisms & Leadership Symposium. The event focused on wellness, resilience, and transformative action and took place in the Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, March 11th to celebrate Women’s History Month. / Carol Detary, Max Taylor



Naomi Barbour speaking at the Women of Color Feminisms and Leadership Symposium in the Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, March 11th. / Owen Cardenas



The panel consisted of a variety of experienced EMU staff, students, and leaders. Huwaida Arraff speaks while the rest of the room listens on at the Women of Color Symposium in the Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, March 11th. / Max Taylor



The attending crowd of staff and students at the Women of Color Symposium in the Student Center Ballroom on Tuesday, March 11th. / Max Taylor



One of the many organizations featured, Chevy Daniels represented the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the symposium. / Carol Detary